



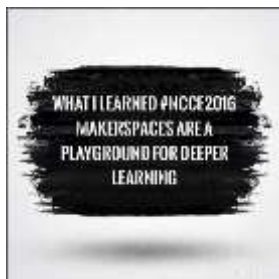
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Greetings Friends,

2016 has been a busy year and year with many changes! I have been assisting with the content standards revision process for Arts, Health and Physical Education, and Science. Check out the [OPI Content Standards Revision](#) webpage to learn about those activities. Teacher-librarians can play a role in helping to understand the new standards and identify existing resources to support curriculum development and instructional strategies.

I will be chairing the Montana State Library Commission meeting on April 6. To review the agenda and meeting information, please visit the [MSL Commission](#) webpage. The MSL Commission uses GoTo Meeting to provide an opportunity for members of the public to listen in—join us online or in person if you would like to learn more about the Commission and its work. One of the agenda items to be aware of is potential changes to the Ebsco database offerings for 2016 and beyond. The funding source for Ebsco ([Coal Severance Tax](#) funds) has been declining over the last two years. You may recall that the HomeworkMT service was discontinued in August 2015 due to decreases in the same funding source. The State Library convened the Network Advisory Council (NAC) on March 8 to develop budget and service recommendations to address a further budget decrease. School Libraries are represented on the NAC by [Joanne Didriksen](#), Helena High School, and [Dana Carmichael](#), Whitefish Middle School. Joanne, Dana, and I will keep you all informed as developments happen with this issue—stay tuned!



In February, I travelled to the [NCCE Conference](#) and Teacher-Librarian Summit. If you were watching my Twitter feed ([@cbartow](#)) you will have seen a lot about Makerspaces. Please watch the [March 15 Digital Blast](#) for links to resources and my thoughts on the opportunities Maker programs can create for students.

As always, please take some time this spring to reflect on the role you can play as an instructional and professional leader in your school, district, and region.

Each teacher-librarian has the potential to provide solutions to the challenges that our schools face in delivering on our promise to provide a high-quality public education. Be courageous in thinking about collaborative ways to accomplish the traditional work of a school librarian and embrace the opportunity to strategically impact student learning through partnerships with other teachers, public and academic libraries, community organizations, students, and parents. Together, we can ensure that: *the role of libraries in a democratic society is to embrace the social responsibility of learning.*

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Looking Ahead to April!



Montana Library/Media Program (ARM 10.55.1801)

The school library media program is essential in creating independent learners who are efficient consumers and producers of information. By using a variety of information formats, focusing on the learning process and collaborating with other disciplines, school libraries provide the entire school community with opportunities to acquire the information skills they need to interact responsibly in a global society. An ongoing desire to know, a love for reading and a respect for information will transform a student into a lifelong independent learner. ***The role of libraries in a democratic society is to embrace the social responsibility of learning.***

MUST READ ARTICLE FROM SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL**A Prime Co-Teaching Opportunity**

By Tara N. Jones

Tara's article details a major shift in title, responsibilities and impact! I was fortunate enough to meet this dynamic teacher-librarian and presented with her at the [2015 SLJ Summit](#). I hope you enjoy this glimpse into the Bellevue Public Schools and their re-imagined school libraries.

**Professional Learning Opportunities****Teacher-Librarian Digital Blast Series Continues**

The next Digital Blast is scheduled for April 12. The topic is yet to be determined. Give me your suggestions or send your burning questions to turn into a Digital Blast. I'd love to have YOU co-present a Digital Blast.

Watch recordings and access additional material on the [Montana Teacher-Librarian site](#).

OPI PORTAL AND HUB

The [OPI Content Standards and Instruction website](#) has a new design focused on bringing you information about Montana's academic standards and professional learning. Visit the [OPI Professional Learning Opportunities Portal](#) for a calendar of workshops and the NEW [Teacher Learning Hub](#) for online courses. All courses on the Teacher Learning Hub are free! All courses include renewal units upon completion. For information on the courses or enrollment, visit the Learning Hub or contact Jessica Bryant (jbryant3@mt.gov)



Teacher Learning Hub
Office of Public Instruction

New to the Learning Hub? It is a digital platform dedicated to providing free high quality professional learning opportunities for all K-12 educators across Montana.

We aim to minimize the time teachers spend away from their classrooms to attend trainings as well as save school districts money on professional learning costs.

Present at the 2016 MEA-MFT Educator Conference**Deadline to Apply is April 30, 2016**

The application to present for next year's MEA-MFT conference is open until **April 30th, 2016**. This is a wonderful opportunity for teacher-librarians to share their successful practices with their peers.

At the past conference in Billings, the MLA curricular group doubled the number of presentations submitted from the previous year. That meant, teacher-librarians could select 2 days of presentations focused on librarianship.

Please take the time to reflect on your years in the library and fill out an application to present, so you can share your successful practices with your peers. By doing so, you truly will have a positive impact on libraries around the state. Here's the link to the application. [MEA-MFT Application to Present](#)

[Niki Keuch](#) | SLD Co-chair



Montana Library Association
Montana's Libraries from the Mountains to Plains

2016 MLA Annual Conference

"Find Your Inner Superhero: Protect! Empower! Inspire!" April 6-9, 2016, Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula. Go to the [MLA Conferences](#) page for registration and program information.

This year's Cates Scholarship Fundraiser Event promises to be a lively one! Compete in "Name that Tune," Team or Individual Karaoke, and dress up as your favorite band or singer! 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 7 at the Hilton Garden Inn. All funds raised go to scholarships for Montana librarians.

The Montana Library Association instituted the [Sheila Cates Scholarship](#) in 1994 to provide financial support to Montana Library Association members seeking a graduate degree in library and/or information science, a graduate school library media program, or seeking a school library endorsement. The scholarship fund was established in memory of Sheila Cates, who served as Library Development Coordinator at the Montana State Library from 1985 until her death from cancer in 1993. Individuals selected to receive an award from the scholarship fund must show potential for emulating Sheila Cates' contribution to Montana libraries.

MLA SLD Summer Retreat

The MLA School Library Division is putting together a Summer Retreat in Billings in August. We have a few questions to ask you to aid our planning to make this worth attending. Please [follow this link](#) to give your feedback on dates and topics. OPI renewal units will be available and Billings Librarians will be able to use this for MEA Trade.

For questions, contact [Lynde Roberts](#) or [Niki Keuch](#), co-chairs MLA SLD.

Government Resource Spotlight

from [Susanne Caro](#), UM Mansfield Library

If you need to quickly locate some resources on a specific group or culture, the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial

Museum have collaborated on a few sites that combine great resources from their collections. Other agencies such as the U.S. Census also put together information on subjects such as Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and other holidays.



February

African American History Month

<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>



March

Women's History Month

<http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

Irish-American History Month (U.S. Census)

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2016/cb16-ff04.html>



May

Jewish American Heritage Month

<http://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/>



Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

<http://asianpacificheritage.gov/>



June

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month (Library of Congress)

<http://www.loc.gov/lgbt/>



September

National Hispanic Heritage Month

<http://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>



November

Native American Heritage Month

<http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>

Search tip: You can find many interesting sources through Google by including site:.gov in your search terms.

Twitter Highlights from @cbartow

- Are you going? I am! School Library Advocacy-Montana 2016 Workshop <https://sites.google.com/site/schoollibraryadvocacymt2016/> #mtedchat
- Equity and equal are not the same ow.ly/YOfET #NCCE2016 @Kiki_Lee getting to core of this tough topic pic.twitter.com/js2JuBfhbt
- Lots of sources for #makered Maker Faires can happen in your library or schools ow.ly/YNQX9 #NCCE2016



#MTedchat: 8:00 p.m., every Tuesday. Live Twitter chat for, with, and moderated by Montana educators. Click [here](#) to view the archives, suggest new topics and watch the Tweets roll by.

Connect With Your Professional Organizations

- Montana Library Association <http://mtlib.org>
- Montana Council for Computers and Technology in Education <http://www.mcceonline.org/>

Contact Information

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[Montana Teacher-Librarian Google site](#)

